remaining claims in the instant application all depend either directly or indirectly from amended claim 17. Hence, it is believed that they too are in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request that the instant amendment be entered and receive favorable consideration. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney if any questions or concerns arise during examination of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Timothy Meigs

Reg. No. 38,241

Attorney for Applicant

Novartis Agribusiness Biotechnology Research Inc. Patent Department P.O. Box 12257 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2257 (919) 541-8587

Date: September 22, 2000